

Amendment foes, fans file briefs

Associated Press

DENVER — Battle lines have been drawn by 17 religious groups and individuals in the U.S. Supreme Court case over Colorado's Amendment 2.

Eleven groups have joined together to file two friend-of-the-court briefs against Amendment 2, and six groups sent one brief in support of Amendment 2.

The two sides disagree about whether the amendment, passed by Colorado voters in 1992, protects religious freedom or forces homosexuals into second-class citizenship.

Amendment 2 seeks to ban laws that protect gays from discrimination, and would nullify ordinances already in place in Denver, Boulder and Aspen.

The Colorado Supreme Court declared the amendment unconstitutional earlier this year, and the U.S. Supreme Court is expected to take up the case this fall.

A ruling could come by early next year.

The pro-Amendment 2 brief was filed by the Southern Baptist Convention, Catholic Legal Society, Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, Focus on the Family, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and the National Association of Evangelicals.

The groups supporting Amendment 2 say the amendment protects the religious rights of groups that believe homosexuality is a sin.

The 11 groups filing against Amendment 2, which include several Jewish groups, Protestants, the Quakers and the head of the Episcopal Church, argue the amendment violates the state constitution by setting aside one group for discrimination.

across the state
Wednesday.

■ **Cities and counties:** \$9.2 million

■ **State-owned:** \$1.1 million

■ **Agriculture:** \$9 million

■ **Private property:** \$1.5 million

■ **Total:** \$20.8 million

*Source: State Office of
Emergency Management*

Merilee Bennett/Gazette Telegraph

